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USIB-M-679
14 November 1974

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Before addressing the regular agenda items the Chairman commented that [] had been designated as the Acting Chairman of the Intelligence Information Handling Committee of USIB for over a year. He said that [] had been doing a good job and suggested that it would be appropriate to finalize that appointment by making [] Chairman rather than Acting Chairman. The Board agreed.

1. Watch Report No. 1264

Approved as circulated.

In connection with the Watch Report, Mr. Colby noted the delicate situation in the Middle East. He said he believed that neither side (Israel, or Egypt/Syria) appeared to want to engage in major hostilities; however, the present situation was such that it could happen at any time. The Board Principals then discussed the situation in the Middle East and the current status of our intelligence coverage.

2. Soviet Capabilities for
Intercontinental Conflict
(NIE 11-3/8-74)

Mr. Colby said he wished to express his appreciation and give recognition to the team who prepared this estimate. He noted that the combination of NIE 11-3 and NIE 11-8 was an experiment to determine whether these two estimates would be better treated as one. He said it had been well handled by the community and that it was a high-quality paper.

Mr. Howard Stoertz, NIO for Strategic Programs, observed that extensive tributes were needed to express appreciation for the successful preparation of an estimate of this size and complexity. As background for the preparation of the estimate, Mr. Stoertz identified nine interagency studies done during the past year which were in response to the needs of specific consumers or initiated by his deputy and himself in response to the KIQs. Mr. Stoertz said that the findings of these studies were essential to the preparation of NIE 11-3/8 and

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